(ii) In the Conference of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3rd March, 2001 it was *inter-alia* resolved that subsidies to the consumers may be given to the extent of the capacity of State Government to pay subsidies explicitly through budget provisions and that the past decision of CM's of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately.

Standardisation of the project cost

402. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested to standardize project costs across the country to avoid delay in project implementation; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Standardization of equipment design, costs and benchmarking is an effective way for accelerating power development and reducing the gestation period for new projects. The Central Electricity Authority has drafted milestone based guidelines for major activities for thermal based power projects. This has been circulated to the Central Public Sector units in the power sector and also to the State Electricity Boards.

Cost of electricity supply to domestic consumer

403. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average domestic customer pay less than 60 per cent of the cost of electricity supplied; and

(b) if so, the power sector reforms proposed to be undertaken to meet the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The average estimated tariff for domestic consumers for 2000-01 is 173 paise/Kwh as against the estimated average cost of supply of Rs. 303.8 paise/Kwh during the said period.

(b) The measures undertaken are as follows: